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Advancement of women

Critical situation of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.20/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

Summary

By draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.20/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide: (a) to establish a working group to recommend measures to be implemented to bring about the long-term sustainability and the future development of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women; and (b) to provide the Institute with the necessary financial support for the continuity of its core operations in a productive and cost-effective manner.

The establishment of the working group would require $96,000 to provide support for its activities. If the General Assembly decides to provide the Institute with financial support for the continuity of its core operations, this could be done only through the provision of additional funds of $600,000 annually under the regular budget of the United Nations. The fashion in which this assistance could be provided would be decided by the Fifth Committee in the context of its consideration of the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

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1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.20/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to establish a working group with two governmental representatives from each of the five regional groups and one representative of the host country. The mandate of the working group would be to recommend to the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, through the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2002, measures to be implemented to bring about the long-term sustainability and the future development of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, and in the meantime to provide the Institute with the necessary financial support for the continuity of its core operations in a productive and cost-effective manner.

2. As regards the establishment of the working group, it is assumed that the group would carry out its activities during the first six months of 2002 until the beginning of the 2002 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July-2002, and that the members of the group would be representatives of the permanent missions to the United Nations in New York. It is estimated, on this basis, that additional general temporary assistance resources to provide secretariat support to the working group in the amount of $96,000, comprising six work-months of Professional staff at the P-4 level ($67,000) and six work-months of the General Service staff ($29,000), would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. In addition, it is estimated that $22,300 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

3. As regards the resources to provide the Institute with the necessary financial support for the continuity of its core operations, it is estimated that the available voluntary contributions would be insufficient for that purpose and that the additional provision of regular budget resources in the amount of $600,000 would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.

4. It is recalled that the General Assembly, in its resolution 55/219 of 23 December 2000, decided, in view of the difficult financial situation of the Institute, to provide it with financial assistance on a non-recurrent basis and, by its decision 55/457 of 23 December 2000, decided to advance the Institute up to $800,000 for 2001 pending receipt of voluntary contributions on a one-time exceptional and emergency basis. By the same decision, the General Assembly also decided that, if voluntary contributions were insufficient to meet the Institute's requirements for 2001, that advance, less voluntary contributions received, would be considered a one-time only subvention and that the resources utilized under the terms of the subvention would be reported in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.

5. In 2001, the financial situation of the Institute remained precarious. While voluntary contributions amounted to $523,980 in 2000, only $299,767 was received as at 31 October 2001. However, owing to the fact that the post of Director was vacant for several periods of time during 2000 and 2001, and owing to a number of savings measures, actual expenditure during 2000 and 2001 (nearly $750,000 annually), was below budgeted levels. It is estimated that the balance of the Institute's Trust Fund, as at 31 December 2001, would amount to approximately $60,000, in addition to a reserve of $200,000 which has been set aside to cover final expenditures and liabilities in the event that the Institute has to be closed down. It is

also estimated that, as voluntary contributions received were sufficient to meet the Institute's requirements for 2001, the one-time subvention of $800,000 would have to be surrendered in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 unless the General Assembly were to decide otherwise.

6. It is also recalled that, in its resolution 2001/40, the Economic and Social Council recommended that the General Assembly consider transferring to the Institute any balance remaining of the sum of $800,000 advanced for 2001 by the General Assembly as a reserve for 2002.

7. Under operative paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.20/Rev.1, the General Assembly would decide to provide the Institute with the necessary financial support for the continuity of its core operations in a productive and cost-effective manner. It is estimated that, in 2002, the expenditure of the Institute would be at a level comparable with that experienced in 2000-2001, that is, nearly $750,000 per year, and that the flow of voluntary contributions would further decrease in 2002, approximating $100,000, and that therefore an additional provision of $650,000 from the regular budget would be required to continue the operations of the Institute in 2002.

8. In summary, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/56/L.20/Rev.1, it is estimated that an additional provision of $746,000 would be required under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003. Furthermore, an amount of $22,300 would be required under section 32, Staff assessment, to be offset by the same amount under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

9. As to the fashion in which this assistance would be provided, it is the intention of the Secretary-General to bring this question to the attention of the Fifth Committee in the context of its review of the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 and the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003.